



Environmental Health Specialist

STANDARD OCCUPATIONAL CODE 19-2041.00

What They Do

Conduct research or perform investigation for the purpose of identifying, abating, or eliminating sources of pollutants or hazards that affect either the environment or the health of the population. Using knowledge of various scientific disciplines, may collect, synthesize, study, report, and recommend action based on data derived from measurements or observations of air, food, soil, water, and other sources.

Is This For You?

Work Interests are described in the following categories (compatible with Holland's Model). People who tend to succeed in this career are:

Realistic - Enjoy work activities that involve practical, hands-on problems and solutions.

Investigative - Interested in science and logic. They like to analyze, evaluate, and solve problems, and enjoy learning and understanding the causes of events.

Work Values are aspects of work that are satisfying to you. The following work values are generally associated with this career:

Achievement – Results oriented occupation that allows employees to use their strongest abilities, giving them a feeling of accomplishment.

Independence – Allow employees to work on their own and make decisions.

Recognition – Offer advancement, potential for leadership, and may be considered prestigious.

Abilities reflect a person's aptitude to acquire skills and knowledge. The following abilities are important for success in the career:

- Oral Comprehension
- Written Comprehension
- Deductive Reasoning
- Inductive Reasoning
- Oral Expression

Skills You Need

- Active Listening – Giving full attention to what other people are saying, taking time to understand the points being made, asking questions as appropriate, and not interrupting at inappropriate times.
- Critical Thinking – Using logic and reasoning to identify the strengths and weaknesses of alternative solutions, conclusions or approaches to problems.
- Reading Comprehension – Understanding written sentences and paragraphs in work related documents.
- Science – Using scientific rules and methods to solve problems.
- Speaking – Talking to others to convey information effectively.

Education & Training

Environmental health specialists need a **bachelor's degree in environmental management, environmental science, environmental engineering, biology, or related program.**

Where They Work

The South Dakota Industries which employ the largest number of environmental health specialists are:

- State Government
- State Government Educational Services
- Management and Technical Consulting Services
- Local Government
- Architectural and Engineering Services

SD Employment & Wages

2016 Workers	2026 Workers	Numeric Change	Percent Change	Average Demand for Workers	Average Annual Wage
260	280	20	9%	30	\$54,790

Activities: what you might do in a day

- Confer with clients to exchange information.
- Prepare scientific or technical reports or presentations.
- Record research or operational data.
- Direct natural resources management or conservation programs.
- Develop environmental sustainability plans or projects.
- Calibrate scientific or technical equipment.
- Advices others on matters of public policy.
- Supervise scientific or technical personnel.

Additional References

Career OneStop

www.careeronestop.org

O*Net Online

www.onetcenter.org